

course, the cloture vote would not occur, at the earliest, until Thursday anyway. I would hope that it will not be necessary that cloture be invoked. But we want to make sure that we are able to complete this legislation, including the managers' package on which these two veteran legislators have worked. I have spoken to staff, and the managers' amendment has not been cleared yet. It should be cleared. I hope we can finish this bill tomorrow afternoon early. This cloture motion is to protect us in case something goes wrong.

I think perhaps we shouldn't go into morning business right now. Someone might want to offer an amendment, and I want to make sure everyone has the ability to do that. It is 5 o'clock now. There will be no more votes today. Unless we have somebody here by 5:30 to offer an amendment, we will go into morning business.

AMENDMENT NO. 3135

Mr. KENNEDY. I introduced amendment No. 3135 to allow the Navy to provide up to \$5 million for the high temperature superconductor AC synchronous propulsion motor. These funds will be used to test and transition the high temperature superconductor AC synchronous propulsion motor to Navy ship class. This will serve in the effort to increase power while reducing vessel weight.

AMENDMENT NO. 3134

I introduced amendment No. 3134 to allow the Navy to provide up to \$3 million for the MK 50, NULKA, Decoy System. These funds can be used for the purpose of continuing efforts to defend the Navy from the continually evolving threat of antiship missiles and associated seeker systems.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I submitted an amendment with Senator KENNEDY as a cosponsor which may provide up to \$1 million, within the Navy Sealift Account, to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, MMA, in Buzzards Bay, MA. The funding will be used to help complete the conversion of the T.S. *Enterprise*, a Ready Reserve Force training ship. In fiscal year 2000–2001, the Department of Defense Appropriations conference report included \$25 million for the conversion of the T.S. *Enterprise*. However, that funding only allowed MARAD to produce a ship which holds only 600 cadets. The Massachusetts Maritime Academy has had a growing number of students in recent years and requires the additional room to allow all of their cadets to train on the ship. At a time when our troops depend heavily on the material shipped to war zones on American flag ships, I believe it is critical to the livelihood of the Nation that our maritime academies continue to produce the professional men and women needed in the maritime trades.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on my amendment, designating \$5 million—the amount requested by the Pentagon—for the Missile Defense Space Experimentation

Center, a facility within the Missile Defense Integration & Operations Center on Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO.

The Missile Defense Space Experimentation Center supports research and development, agency operations, test and evaluations and operations and training for missile defense capabilities. It provides the Missile Defense Agency a common support infrastructure and connectivity for operating MDA experimental satellites, and integrating space data in support of the missile defense mission. The MDSEC provides a multilevel security environment for sensor data management and integration across all space and terrestrial sensor data activities.

MDSEC activities support analysis, demonstration and integration of space sensor capabilities into developmental and operational MDA Elements. MDSEC also supports advanced technology and algorithm development, including fusion of multiple sensor types—radar, overhead nonimaging infrared, electro-optical and other emerging sensor technologies. MDSEC supports mission integration of space-based missile track—boost and mid-course phases—sensor and weapons cueing via C2BMC, features and discrimination, kill and impact point assessments into C2BMC, Aegis, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense—THAAD—Global Missile Defense—GMD—and other—non-MDA—mission areas such as space situation awareness, technical intelligence, and battle space characterization. For Fiscal Year 2008, the Missile Defense Space Experimentation Center will: Demonstrate connectivity and integration of space layer data into X-lab, BMDS elements, and external users; demonstrate capability to access, share, and playback data across stakeholder programs—MDSEC Interchange System; provide synergy for testing, experiments, integration and algorithm development—Integration Lab; demonstrate capability to support and integrate across multiple security environments/domains; demonstrate space-layer data support to non-BMDS Missions—external users; demonstrate integrated birth-to-death tracking and fusion across existing, R&D and future BMDS sensors; support space-based sensors data collections and algorithm testing experiments; complete MDSEC Interchange System—MIS: Test prototype MIS operating system and host MIS hardware suite.

I believe the mission and task for the MDSEC require our support and I urge passage of this amendment.

Mr. President, in regards to my amendment designating \$5 million to support research and development, agency operations, test and evaluations and operations and training for missile defense capabilities at the Missile Defense Space Experimentation Center, a facility within the Missile Defense Integration & Operations Center on Schriever Air Force Base in Col-

orado Springs, CO, neither I nor anyone in my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in the center or its operations.

AMENDMENT NO. 3140

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise today in support of amendment No. 3140 to the 2008 Defense Appropriations Act. This amendment is in the interest of Louisiana and health care programs within the Department of Defense. I request up to \$1 billion be made available for Maternal-Fetal Health Informatics and Outreach Program. This project will be the use of Telehealth and electronic medical record, EMR, technologies centered on conducting research and developing technology solutions for high-risk obstetrical patients, in collaboration with the DOD. The intent of the Maternal Fetal Informatics Outreach Program, MFIOP, is to leverage technology toward optimizing health care delivery solutions for women and infants. This effort will increase portability of patient records and lead to a decrease in associated health care cost related to obstetrical, OB, and newborn health care services. The Maternal-Fetal Health Informatics and Outreach Program is currently operating out of Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, LA. I have no personal, familiar or political connection to this project.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SALAZAR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BRINGING A FALLEN SOLDIER HOME

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, earlier today, I left a Banking Committee hearing to go out to Arlington National Cemetery to meet with a group of World War II veterans. A woman by the name of Ms. Best, who had served in World War II, was laying the wreath on behalf of Miami County, OH, veterans—some 35 or so veterans from Ohio who took a bus under the sponsorship of Glenn Devers, who raises money so veterans can come to Washington and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and then proceed to see the World War II monument.

I was struck, first, by all the stories of Mr. and Mrs. Whited, for instance. Mr. Whited was called off to the service and went overseas. His child was born a few months after he left, and when he returned, he saw his son for the first time, who was the age of 2. He is now more than 60 years old. I was taken by the stories of so many of these World War II veterans, their courage and heroism, their love of country, their duty, their commitment, and their patriotism. They surely—without overusing the phrase—were part of “the greatest generation.”

Few veterans have asked for credit or recognition, but it was such a pleasure to go there and talk to them today. I

had one request of them. Of course, I thanked them over and over. I had one request, and that was that these veterans, both men and women, tell their stories to their children and grandchildren. My father, a World War II veteran who enlisted about a year after Pearl Harbor, sometime during 1942, and went overseas, he didn't talk about it much. He passed away 6 years ago at the age of 89. He didn't talk about it much. I encouraged these men and women who served our country valiantly in World War II—or any veteran since then—to share the stories with their children and grandchildren because it will enrich their lives. They don't need to brag, but they ought to tell friends and families about their accomplishments and feats. These are stories that their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren will treasure for the rest of their lives.

I thought of that visit yesterday before I made the visit, as I was planning it. I thought yesterday, when the Senate passed the Defense reauthorization bill, of an amendment that Congressman BART STUPAK of Michigan and I have been working on. Currently, the Department of Defense—prior to this amendment—is allowed to use any combination of air, rail or road transportation to bring the body of a fallen soldier home. But what has been done, because the rule is so broad, the law is so broad, the Department of Defense in many cases has brought the body of a soldier killed in action to the nearest big city airport, which could be 50, 100, 200 or 300 miles away. Congressman STUPAK represents an area in northern Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, and often bodies are brought back to Green Bay, which is too far from many of these families who have to go to an airport that is 2 or 3 hours away with the funeral home, paying the expenses and accompanying the body back to the hometown. That has happened in southern Ohio, where there is no airport. Maybe they would go to Charleston, Columbus or Pittsburgh. It is outrageous that the Department of Defense doesn't bring the bodies to the communities where the families live, when they are already so distraught from losing a loved one.

We were able to get the fallen servicemember respectful return amendment included in the Department of Defense bill. This means that when our soldiers make the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country, the least the Government and the DOD can do—and for reasons I don't even understand they had failed to do. We talk so much about honoring our soldiers, but they failed to do this. All of the money we are spending—hundreds of billions of dollars—and they didn't get these bodies back to the funeral home in the local communities. It is incumbent upon us to do that.

Congressman STUPAK in the House and my amendment in the Senate finally has done that. The least we can do is ease the path for these families as they confront their loss.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, the Children's Health Insurance Plan legislation was delivered to the White House this afternoon for, I hope, the President's signature, but unfortunately, I fear the President's veto. It is unbelievable that the President would veto legislation that means so much to many working families in Ohio, in the great State of Colorado, and any of the other 48 States in our great Nation.

The Children's Health Insurance Program was conceived in 1996 and took effect in 1997, with a Democratic President and a Republican House and Senate. It now insures some 6 million children in our country. These are the sons and daughters of working families, parents who are working hard, playing by the rules, paying their taxes, but they make too much to be on Medicaid but make too little to be able to afford insurance, especially if one of their children has a preexisting condition of any serious nature. They are making \$20,000, \$30,000, and \$40,000 a year.

The President—as Senator GRASSLEY has pointed out in criticism—has said we don't want to give help to these rich children. These are families making \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000, and as much as \$50,000 or \$60,000 a year but mostly families making less. They are struggling, and it is not easy to pay the bills when you make \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year, let alone pay for health care bills and health insurance.

The President also said he doesn't want this big Government program. He talked about socialism, or something I don't understand. The President of the United States and most Members of Congress go out to Bethesda. That is a Government health care system. They get great health care at Bethesda Naval Hospital. The VA has terrific facilities, not just the CBOCs, community-based outreach clinics, such as in Mansfield, Youngstown, Lorraine, Springfield, Marion, Lima, and all over the State and all over this country; but the big VA hospitals in places such as Brecksville, Columbus, and Chillicothe, and what all that means.

The President says these are kids who should be covered by private insurance. Sure, they should. I wish these children did have private insurance. But the fact is that millions of children in our country don't have private insurance. At relatively little cost—because most children don't cost much to insure—we can put them in the Children's Health Insurance Program.

If the President vetoes this bill, it will immediately mean that some number of children—several hundred thousand—will lose their health insurance immediately, and it will mean a lost opportunity for 4 million other children in Colorado, Ohio, and all over this country, to get health insurance. Again, these are children of working parents—parents who are struggling and doing the best they can to make a go of it. All they want is health insurance for their children.

The President is critical of the cost of the bill. This bill will cost about \$7 billion a year, the Children's Health Insurance Plan. The Presiding Officer voted for it and I voted for it and it passed this Senate with 68 votes, with almost 20 Republicans—almost 40 percent of the Republicans voted for this bill in the Senate and all of the Democrats. This is a bipartisan bill. The House is the same way, where dozens of Republicans in the House voted for it.

So it is clearly a bipartisan bill, and the President says it costs too much. It costs \$7 billion a year in the next 5 years. What does that mean? In contrast, we spend in 1 week in Iraq close to \$3 billion. So we are spending \$3 billion a week in Iraq, and we want to spend \$7 billion a year to cover 4 million children—some 60 or 70 or 80 in Ohio would take advantage of this—and the President says no to that. He wants more than \$3 billion additional per week in Iraq. Something is wrong with those priorities.

The President has had the legislation delivered to him at the White House. I hope the President will reconsider some of his public comments and listen to middle-class families. This is one of those times when Government can directly help the middle class and make a difference in the lives of so many middle-class families who are struggling, such as the Demko family in Columbus.

I just wish the President would open his mind and his ears and his eyes for the next few days and let's send some children, some families we have met, whom you have met, Mr. President, in Boulder or Denver, whom you met in Colorado Springs, whom I have met in Columbus, Cincinnati, or Dayton, or Zanesville, or Steubenville—let's invite some of those families to the White House, sit down with the President and say: Mr. President, here is what the Children's Health Insurance Program means to me and my family and to a lot of my neighbors. Please, Mr. President, sign this bill.

I believe, because I think he is a decent person, if the President would open his ears, eyes, and mind to that conversation of those families, it would be a very different outcome. I am hopeful in the next couple of days that the President will sign the Children's Health Insurance Program. If he does not, I am confident we will override his veto in the Senate, and I am hopeful that enough Republicans will get on this bipartisan bandwagon and join the Democrats in overriding that veto because it will mean a stronger, more vibrant, more humane policy and a stronger middle class for our country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.